United Nations E/AC.51/2008/L.4/Add.27

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
27 June 2008

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-eighth session
9 June-3 July 2008
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Stefania **Rosini** (Italy)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 15)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). A view was expressed on the lengthy discussions held among the ESCAP member States during the sixty-fourth session of the Commission in April 2008 and the positive results as reflected in the revisions contained in E/AC.51/2008/CRP.1.

4. The importance was expressed of sharpening the focus of the programme of work, striving for more balance in addressing the needs of the Commission's membership and enhancing cooperation with international and regional organizations, including those within the United Nations system, to ensure greater synergies and complementarity of work. The focus of the overall orientation, in particular as detailed in paragraph 15.8, was welcomed. The view was expressed

08-40370 (E) 300608

regarding the need for further coordination of activities between ESCAP and other organizations to seek more coherence in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Clarification was sought on the extent of efforts taken and planned in the future to ensure greater cooperation and synergies between ESCAP and regional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

5. The view was expressed that the overall orientation of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011 was focused more on social aspects and that a balance with the economic dimension could have been sought.

6. Clarification was sought as to the concept of "inclusive and sustainable development" introduced in the overall orientation and in several subprogrammes of the proposed biennial programme plan for 2010-2011.

7. The view was expressed that references to climate change and its impact in the region and to drought and desertification prevailing in the region had not been incorporated in the proposed biennial programme plan for 2010-2011. The importance of their inclusion in some subprogrammes, in particular in subprogramme 4, Environment and development, was noted.

8. The great diversity and disparity in the region, as evidenced by the case of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, were observed. The view was expressed that a balanced approach was needed to ensure even development in the region.

9. Under subprogramme 4, Environment and development, it was observed that the approach to environmental issues was mainly focused on economic aspects. Clarification was sought as to the consideration given to sustainable development.

10. The new subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction, in particular the focus on disaster risk reduction, was welcomed. Given that the Asian and Pacific region was particularly prone to natural disasters, it was emphasized that work in that area should be strengthened.

11. Questions were raised concerning the similarities of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the five components of subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 15.12

After the second sentence, add "ESCAP will pursue a balanced approach to addressing social, environmental and economic issues, including those related to trade, transport and infrastructure development, in order to promote sustainable growth and development".

Subprogramme 1
Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), after the words, "formulate strategies for achieving the", add the words "internationally agreed development goals, including the".

Subprogramme 3
Transport

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), delete the words "and safety" and, at the end of the sentence, add "as well as road safety".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (c)(i), replace the words "transport safety" with the words "road safety".